

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, BY
SUBJECT: RIVALRIES IN BURUNDI POLITICS

REF: (A) USUN 6240, (B) BUJUMBURA 1167

1. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD REPORTS FROM SEVERAL MODERATELY WELL-PLACED SOURCES THAT SIMBANANIYE SEEMS TO BE WINNING OUT IN FIGHT TO BE ASSIGNED AS BURUNDI PERMREP IN NEW YORK. EVIDENTLY, HOWEVER, THIS RESULTS AS MUCH FROM DESIRE OF HIS OPPONENTS TO GET HIM OUT OF BURUNDI AS FROM EFFORTS OF HIS SUPPORTERS TO KEEP HIM POLITICALLY ALIVE WITH A GOOD JOB.

2. AS FOR MIKANAGU'S OTHER GOSSIP ABOUT THE OUSTER OF BAGAZA AND A SIMBANANIYE-LED COUP, IT IS HARD TO TAKE SUCH SPECULATION SERIOUSLY. OF COURSE, ANOTHER COUP CANNOT BE ENTIRELY EXCLUDED, ESPECIALLY AGAINST A REGIME WHICH INSTALLED ITSELF BY COUP ACTION. MOREOVER, THERE CONTINUE TO BE RIVALRIES WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OVER THE ALLOCATION OF KEY JOBS BETWEEN VARIOUS REGIONALLY BASED GROUPS. SIMBANAYIYE DOES HAVE CLOSE TIES TO ONE SUCH GROUP, THAT OF THE MATANA AREA, BUT THE LEADING LIGHT OF THAT GROUPING IS NOW THE PRIME MINISTER (NZAMBIMANA) AND NOT RPT NOT SIMBANANIYE BY ANY MEANS.
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3. WHATEVER THE RIVALRIES, WE BELIEVE THAT, AS OF NOW, PRES. BAGAZA AND PRIMIN NZAMBIMANA ARE IN CLOSE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR STABILITY AND HARD WORK IN THE COUNTRY. CERTAINLY THE PRIMIN AND HIS MINISTERS ARE SETTING NEW EXAMPLES FOR LONG HOURS AND ORDERLY ATTENTION TO BUSINESS. IT IS NOT

ONLY HARD TO IMAGINE A NEW PLOT'S HATCHING IN THESE CIRCUM-
STANCES, BUT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO SEE WHICH INFLUENTIAL
OFFICERS IN THE MILITARY (WHOSE SUPPORT WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE)
WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN ANOTHER TURNOVER.

4. MIKANAGU HIMSELF IS NATURALLY NOT ABOVE HATCHING SCARE
STORIES TO PROMPT OUR INTERVENTION ON HIS BEHALF, BUT,
AS WE NOTED AT THE END OF REF B, WE SHOULD AVOID FURTHER
ENTANGLEMENT.
MARK

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